

"OF ALL THE FORMS OF INEQUALITY, INJUSTICE IN HEALTH CARE IS THE MOST SHOCKING AND INHUMANE." – Martin Luther King, Jr.

## **Strategies Behind the Mission**

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) established a Health Issues Work Group (HIWG) with the mission to advocate for an increase in the quality, availability and range of health care supports and services for people with disabilities statewide.

The work group regularly provides the DD Council with advice and direction about key health issues facing Michigan's diverse communities. It is a primary objective of the work group to stay current on emerging health issues.

To achieve its mission, the work group developed the following strategies:

1. Assist the Council with development of local pilot projects that provide health and well-being services through a person's life.
2. Educate consumers, providers, policy makers and others to expand awareness of the need for and benefits of health care for people with disabilities.

3. Provide leadership in developing, monitoring and responding to public policy that impacts health issues, in order to expand awareness of the need for and benefits of health care supports and services statewide.

In providing this assistance, education and leadership, the work group has proven to be an effective voice in advocating for changes in Michigan residents' health and well-being, particularly in health supports systems for people with disabilities.

## **Health Care Basics**

Michigan's disability advocacy organizations have developed a Common Disability Agenda that states the following about health care: **Access to basic, comprehensive health care is a common goal.**

Michigan needs healthy citizens with access to comprehensive health care and education about healthy life styles. Providing preventive and basic health care is cost effective and avoids expensive care later. Our country spends

billions of dollars each year because it fails to provide preventive care, and loses billions more from lost production when workers or their family members are ill. Yet persons with disabilities are less likely than persons without disabilities to have access to basic health care.

“Access” is an essential component of an effective health care system. The many worthy goals of policy makers and advocates for quality health care cannot be realized if persons in need are denied access to services. Issues of access are inextricably linked to the cost of health care.

### **Please Join Us in Our Mission**

There are many, including people in diverse communities, who share your concern about health care in Michigan? Please consider joining us in outreaching to them. We meet regularly and you will find our meetings to be informative, lively and productive.

Your participation, insight, experiences and unique viewpoints can be invaluable to help us achieve our mission. Please call us at 517-334-6123.

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# Health Issues Work Group

## **Our Community Includes Everyone**



**Michigan Developmental  
Disabilities Council**



**Todd A. Koopmans, chairperson**

**Vendella M. Collins, executive director**

1033 S. Washington Ave, Lansing, MI 48910

517/334-6123 (voice); 334-7354 TDD; 334-7353

(fax) website: [www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil](http://www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil)